United Nations A/60/397

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 September 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 41
Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2005

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 (see annex). The report covers 2005 and was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112.

05-53111 (E) 111005

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (2005)

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 36/201, the General Assembly established the United Nations Population Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. In its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. In its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award accordingly.

5. On 29 April 2003, the Council elected the following five Member States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004: Algeria, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Netherlands and Peru. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director also acts as Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

6. On 31 October 2003, the Council elected Belarus, Cameroon, Guyana and the Islamic Republic of Iran to fill postponed vacancies for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2004.

7. On 27 April 2005, the Council elected Haiti to fill the postponed vacancy in the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States until 31 December 2006.

8. During its first regular meeting on 7 May 2005, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award elected Judith Mbula Bahemuka (Kenya) as Chairperson.

II. The 2005 United Nations Population Award

9. A total of 23 nominations were received for the 2005 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. Of these, 13 were for the "individual" category and 10 for the "institutional" category. On 7 June 2005, within the mandate given to it by the General Assembly and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected Mercedes Concepcion (Philippines) in the individual category and the Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala in the institutional category.

10. Ms. Concepcion was selected for her significant contributions to population research and policy in the Philippines. In particular, her studies on population growth were important in the formation of the national population policy of the

Philippines. Ms. Concepcion ensured that valid and reliable systems were in place so that the national population policy could be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis. She has been recognized for her commitment to scholarship and Government service in the field of population. Ms. Concepcion's research was carried out not merely for its own sake, but was deliberately directed towards policy development and change. Her pioneering research and continuing work on the demographic process in the Philippines and South-East Asia have been recognized internationally. Ms. Concepcion is currently Professor Emeritus at the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, and is also a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Philippine Commission on Population.

11. The Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala (APROFAM) was selected as the laureate in the institutional category for providing excellent reproductive health services to families in Guatemala, including family planning, reproductive health education, and sexual health counselling and training. The specific mission of the organization is to provide high-quality reproductive health services to lower income women and men. APROFAM is credited with undertaking objective, non-partisan scientific investigations in the field of population and development. It has been instrumental in disseminating sociodemographic data in Guatemala to develop and maintain a strong information base for population policies and programmes. In addition to reproductive health services, 32 APROFAM clinics recently began offering cardiology care and dental services and have acquired X-ray and laboratory facilities that produce test results for physicians and clinic staff. Integrated health management information systems have enabled APROFAM to greatly increase efficiency in processing orders for medication and contraceptives. As a result, APROFAM has nearly doubled the volume of clinical service visits from 600,000 to approximately 1 million per year.

III. Financial matters

12. As at 31 December 2004, the Trust Fund had a total balance of $748,538. Interest income in 2004 was $21,465. Expenditures in 2005, including the prizes, totalled $50,764.